

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Unit 1

MODULE I

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Nature & Meaning of Research

In the modern complex world every society today is faced with serious social, economic & political problems. These problems need systematic, intelligent and Practical solutions. Problem solving is technical process. It requires the accumulation of new knowledge. Research provides the means for accumulating knowledge & wisdom. In other words, research is a systematic effort of gathering analysis & interpretation of problems confronted by humanity. It is a thinking process and scientific method of studying a problem and finding solution. It is an in-depth analysis based on reflective thinking.

Definitions

Research in common parlance refers to a search for knowledge. One can also define research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. Research is an academic activity and the term should be used in a technical sense.

- a) -William Emory defines Research as "any organised enquiry designed and carried out to provide information for solving a problem"
- b) The new Oxford English Dictionary defines research is "the scientific investigation into and study of material, sources etc in order to establish facts and the reach new conclusions".
- c) Redman and Mory defines, research as "a systematised effort to gain new knowledge".
- d) "A careful investigation or inquiry specially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge" Advanced Learner's Dictionary.

Characteristics of Research

The above definitions reveal the following characteristics of Research

1. Research is a systematic and critical investigation into a phenomenon.
2. It is not mere compilation of facts.
3. It adopts scientific method.
4. It is objective & Logical
5. It is based on empirical evidence.
6. Research is directed towards finding answers to questions
7. It emphasis the generalisation of theories and principles.

Objectives of Research

The objectives of Research can be grouped under the following heads

1. To gain familiarity with a phenomenon or to achieve new insights to it.